

ABENG

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SIGNPOST

Jamaican Constitution

On March 6th, Wilton Hill told the Montego Bay Kiwanis that the Jamaica constitution is a "stupid document (Daily Gleaner Fri March 7th 1969) but nevertheless continues to draw £7000 under it as the 'Dis-honourable Minister of Foreign Utilities'."

But the constitution is not 'stupid.' It is the cleverest attempt by combined PNP-JLP 'brains' to fool the Jamaican people in the long history of oppression.

Before 1962, constitutional law was the chief cover for the legal oppression of the black society. Under it only rebellion had a chance of bringing any change. So that if today, as Hill says, the PNP-JLP constitution is "virtually immutable by democratic means," then it may not be altogether accidental (or stupid).

For this constitution like the laws before, helps give away the rights of the masses to their age-long enemies. For instance, the property rights of the Americans and their Jamaican house-slaves who own Jamaica are specially protected by this non-Jamaican constitution. They have the real power. Under them the politicians are jokes.

But if there are any who are really interested in black people's rights, let them begin to show it. Demand a constituent assembly of the people so that the Jamaican people can make their own constitution. Enough of this bogus paper written in secret by the "black puppets" of white power.

New Police Violence Launched Against the People Crime Only an Excuse

The gigantic police-military raids and the murderation of the people have nothing to do with crime. It is the start of a reign of terror against Black Sufferers who no longer can be fooled by political games and promises.

The two raids this week were prompted by PHAROAH AND JOSHUA'S messages to the well-to-do of St. Andrew promising them to wipe out crime in Jamaica. These raids are not crime-raids. The police knew from the start that criminals are not caught that way, especially when they are operating on the criminal's own terrain.

Many people are being held illegally by the police. One lawyer who enquired about two detainees was told by the police 48 hours after

they were arrested that they were still being held without charge. This is illegal.

The brutal and humiliating way with which these raids are being carried out is the surest guarantee of a military state. Each raid leads



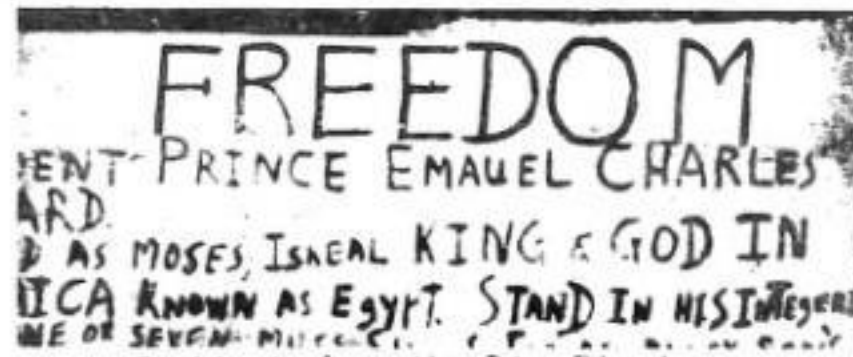
Subversion in the garbage heap

to more civil disorder because of the unjust way in which sufferers are being treated.

Prince Edwards' camp on Spanish Town Road was one of these raided. About 10 policemen came to the gate, saw it locked, and burst it open. From there on they rounded up the people who camped on the premises and carried them to the Denham Town Police Station. Two youths were held without being charged. While we spoke to Prince Edward, several buildings were being repaired after the police destruction.

Keitie: a young man of 22 working with Dairy Products, was on his way to the Dry Cleaners with 3 shirts when the police stopped him and arrested him. Until Tuesday evening no charges were laid against him. He is still being held illegally. Nothing was found on him. He has a wife with two small children. "Jeanie have the 2 children and the big belly." Nobody was allowed to see him or to take him clothes and food. As a result, "the whole a the children dem have to hook off... some just a run up and down and cry." Some children, suffering from fright and heart palpitations, had to be hidden. One policeman rubbing off his gun says to it: "Charlie boy, it is quite all right."

Working Woman: her front door



Surviving sign from raid on Prince Edwards' camp

was kicked down while away. "Not everybody can live a St. Andrew... Cause we poor and black why dem a handle we so... Bet dem don't have a Chinaman pickney in dem jail."

POLICE PLUNDER

The policemen, apart from committing grievous physical atrocities against the residents of Trench Town also plundered a wide variety of stuff. They stole "pardner money" and £6 which Ras John Stone had stored away in a little box. In some places they devoured whatever food they found. In one place, they ate pudding and grabbed a pants length. At Ras John Stone's home on Ashland Road, which the police searched, valuable religious drums were cut up with bayonets and even the wires of the electric light for the yard were chopped.

Ras Stone said: "It is really a political fight. What I personally reach up to now is a fight to the death. If you class me with wrongdoers, then is wrong I goin' do."

One of the most sickening events of the whole raid took place when some of the raiding party returned to Ras Stone's yard and were in the process of "cutting locks". A Rasta brother walked into the yard and protested to the police. They not only cuffed him properly, they took him outside the gate, beat him with gun-butts, then told him to run, run for his life, for "we goin' shoot you."

While running in the direction of Ninth St. the police beat the zinc fence with the bayonets, creating the sound of gun-fire. Then they called to their police friends at Ninth St. and shouted that they should chase the Rasta back up Ashland Rd. This continued until the man was too exhausted and terrified to run any further.

SWALLOW A FRENCH LETTER

Perhaps the most perverted police action (reported to ABENG) occurred when two policemen held a young man in the street outside his house, while one beat him from behind with a rifle and the other held him by his throat. They then forced his mouth open and made him swallow a "french letter."!!

The police even beat a sick woman who had recently returned from the hospital. They found her in bed, took her out, then beat her saying: "Is sex you jus done having, come out!"

SHOOT DEM DOWN

A youth, Everod Williams, was beaten mercilessly before his mother's eyes, arrested and no charges



Rasta father holds chopped off locks of 11 year-old son.

made against him. The police refuse to release him, will not allow any clothes and food to be brought. This again is illegal. The police have no power to arrest and detain people who are not charged. Pauline Brown, Everod's girlfriend, was beaten at the same time with a 'rock-steady' across her back. She was taken to Sutton St. and released late Tuesday evening. Everod's mother, Mrs. Williams protested to no avail. The police reply went, "a hav a good mine let go a bullet in your dirty rass clate." This was typical of the reports given by the people interviewed. When asked about what the police told them—

"SHOOT DEM DOWN!"

These raids are not meant to deal with crime. They are nothing less than a new wave of violence against the people.

Police Harasment Begun Abeng Agent Detained



At about 12.15 p.m., I was at the Half-Way-Tree Court Building (upstairs) distributing Abeng. A police came along and ask to see one of the Abeng. After glancing through the paper, the police begin to question me as to the legality of the paper. I told him there was nothing illegal about the paper as far as I know. He also asked me who were the people responsible for its publication. I pointed to the editorial

column. He further asked me how long I was dealing with the Abeng. I told him from the birth, which is six weeks ago. He told me to come with him across to the C.I.D. for further inquiry. I did as he say.

On reaching toward the C.I.D. he stop with an inspector. I heard this boy asking the inspector if the Abeng was a legal publication, to which the Inspector send him to a special person further down the passage, standing with Abeng in hand. This police-man came back with the Abeng saying to me it wa- OK, I could go my ways.

During the period of my waiting on the result of investigation, I try to get a bit of paper that was on the floor so that I could make a note of the number the police wears but was shouted at by other members of the police, not to make any funny move, I must be quiet. I was very firm in dealing with the whole issue i.e. "Either you lock me away, or set me free because my work as a distributor is a national one and must not be delayed - that they should do what they thought best."



Vol. 1 No. 7 March 15, 1969

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

george beckford
robert hill
trevor monroe
rupert lewis

Canada's White Lies

West Indian Students in Montreal have been discriminated against, brutalized and are now on trial. The Canadian Governor General has come and was showered with hospitality. The largest Canadian warship — the Provider — called here last week on a Caribbean cruise. And 850 Canadian troops are "exercising" in the John Crow Mountains and in the Cockpit Country so as to "get accustomed to tropical conditions."

The house-slave press in this country has made no comment on the troops; have welcomed Mr. Mitchener's visit as useful for "maintaining the good relations between Canada and the West Indies" and has blasted the West Indian students for "destroying property in their host country." It has even been suggested and our governments should apologise to Canada and pay for the computer.

We wish to comment on the three aspects of the matter. First what are the facts about what happened in Montreal. Second how "good" for us are our relations with Canada. And, third, what is the real reason for Canadian military presence at this time?

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN MONTREAL

As our report in this issue indicates, we do not seem to have been told everything that happened in Montreal. According to our direct reports from the brothers and sisters in Montreal, the so-called destruction of property may not have been done by them at all. And racism is said to be widespread. One thing is clear. It is that we have not been told the full story of what actually happened in the period before the trial began. We, therefore, support the UWI Students' request that the Canadian Government set up a Commission of Enquiry into the events leading up to the trial.

GOOD RELATIONS A MYTH

Our economic relations with Canada are good only for Canada — not for us. They make millions from our bauxite and from banking and insurance services here. What they make from our bauxite in one week could buy several computers. We have no investments in Canada so we

get nothing from their resources. Canadians living here come in at the top of our society. Those of us who go there go in at the bottom of theirs. They have gained on their trade with us, we have lost. We are told they give us "aid." What are the facts? Between 1958 and 1966, Canadian aid to the West Indies came to about £10 million. But in one year alone, we lost something like £11 million in our terms of trade with Canada. In more recent years, our loss on the trade has been four or five times the total "aid" Canada "gave" to us. Most of the things we buy from Canada we can get cheaper elsewhere — especially flour and fish.

WHY ARE THEIR TROOPS HERE?

For us the world is not level at all. Foreign military power has been used in other poor countries to keep things that way. Are the Canadian troops here to make sure that sufferers don't get any ideas about retaliating for the brutal way they have treated our brothers and sisters in Montreal? Is it that they remember October 16? Did they send their biggest warship at this time to intimidate black people in the West Indies? Are the troops in Portland and the Cockpit studying the terrain to prepare to move in if Canadian bauxite banks, etc. were to come under attack? No part of Canada is tropical. So what are they preparing for? And why Cockpit and John Crow? Are they here to get ready to "protect" Canadian investments (and American investments) in this country?

ABENG wants to know what possible justification our Government could have for allowing foreign troops to come here and study our terrain in this way. Is there some military agreement between this Government and the Canadian Government about which we have not been told? The people must know these things.

SECURITY OF COUNTRY AT STAKE

The security of this country is at stake with these foreign troops on our soil. We should demand that they go elsewhere. (How about Rhodesia?) But even if they go, be warned, brothers, they and others will be back when we begin to try and set the world level for ourselves.

BLOW THE HORN TELL THE PEOPLE

RICH vs. POOR

Hello Abeng,

I fail to see why Jamaicans are beginning to hate the white man. Is it because the Jamaicans feel inferior in their own country? They claim no white man should rule because they would be paying tribute to the Great Empire. But how can they forget the Great Empire on whom they are so dependent. Can Jamaicans be conscious that the colour of your skin has no effect on your mind? They hail Black Power thinking that it will be a solution to their problems.

How can they be applying a solution used in Africa to solve a problem in a situation which is completely different. They should stop thinking about colour and say I am poor and I need opportunities. Then consider who has the money and we find it is a certain group of black men.

When they say Black Power the rich black men also shout it, but when they shout I am a Poor Man, hear who shout it with them.

A Poor Man.

LONG LIVE ABENG

Hello Abeng,

Black greetings in the name of the omnipotent one "Almighty God." I must congratulate you on making such a tremendous effort in publishing this wonderful "black" newspaper.

I must say that for years my black brothers and sisters had not have the opportunity to exercise their feelings towards the oppressors. I know that with the help of ABENG the people will be aware of the severe oppression with which they are undergoing.

I once more say long live Abeng because with the help of my black advocates it will be down with the oppressor's white newspaper which is "The Gleaner" and "The Star."

Yours truly,
Bongo Dan,
Black Power Advocate.

UNITED BLACK

Sir,

Greetings to your newspaper and lots of success in the future. I quote

a term use by many black brothers and sisters. "Black bird stop pick tick off cow now, you have to get white bird to do same."

I am glad to see where the birth of the united black is coming to know themselves, because without we unite there will be no goal to reach.

Beware of them who try to sell out the beauty of this country to the Americans and Europeans for in no time we will owe them so much you will one day read the news headlines that the later regrets that we are so much in arrears; they will have to take over our island because it do not seem like there will be any repayment.

When the Chinese came from Hong Kong with only a board slippers and flannel shirt, in no time they have big business and big car and what have the black race? Nothing but taxes, more work and little or no money.

It is so beautiful to be black so let those pork people go on live big life, the boat soon crash." Again, brothers and sisters we must

Marcus Garvey



Fellowmen of the Negro race, and friends, greetings: We have before us today a letter written by a man from Richmond, St. Mary, Jamaica, who tries in communication to show us that there is no need for inspiring the black race to a greater consciousness of itself, because there should be no change of relationship between the Negro and his (?) friends. This man tries to show that he feels so deeply interested about the matter that he wrote the letter on Sunday. The letter has in it many suggestions of Christian (?) love which prompted the writing of it according to the author. Reading the letter as we have done, and studying it as we have, we have come to the conclusion

that this man is nothing other than a conscienceless brute. It is just this, that he has profited out of the ignorance of the poor blacks and because he surmises that any improvement on the part of the Negro will mean a lessening of his game of exploitation then he cannot see the reason why we should advocate Negro improvement.

WHY THE WORLD IS MISERABLE

It is brutes like these who have made the world so miserable men who would fight so as to keep other men in slavery; men who would move heaven and earth under the guise of religion, so as to be able to exploit the unfortunate of humanity. We shall not please such a man and we shall not take him under consideration other than to help the poor people to throw off the influence that his kind has held over them so long. What is true of this man in Richmond, is true of different haters of the Negro race in different parts of the world, but we are glad that in the midst of such hate, we have other men of other races with broad sympathies, with real human love who will not be parties to anything that will injure the least of God's children whether they be black or whether they be white.

MEN WHO THINK THEY ARE SMART

We hope the man in Richmond will read this article and understand clearly how we feel about him. He may think himself a Christian, so much a Christian to have written the letter on Sunday. We think him a devil, because reading between the lines we can see nothing else but hate, — a disposition not to assist the Negro to help himself, but to keep him in a state of ignorance so as to make it easy for the heartless and selfish to exploit him.

We shall continue to work to help humanity, to make the world a better place for everybody to live in. We feel sure that we are on the right road in doing this, so we have no fear, but we are inspired to do our part and to do it well. We are just going on working for the emancipation of the Negro; working to make him a man among men, and no influence of vicious and selfish men can thwart us in this design.

With very best wishes, I have the honour to be
Your Obedient Servant,
Marcus Garvey.

"Blackman" — Sat. April 27, 1929

unite and don't follow pork spirit "for Ceaser's head you will sell your soul and don't know."

"Black Power is a beginning of a New Nation." So unite Black One.

'A Black Power Member.' BLACK DOMESTICS

Dear ABENG,

Thanks for the stand taken in your No. 5 issue in defense of the Women Workers in Jamaica and in particular the domestic women workers.

The Jamaica Congress of Labour is at the disposal of the domestic workers to assist them in every aspect of setting up a Domestic Workers Union. Thanks for blowing this message across the country, to all sisters.

Chris Lawrence,
Jamaica Congress of Labour
49 East Queen Street,
Kingston.

TRINIDAD PROTESTS

Dear Sir,

The incident which occurred in Trinidad at the university, I am sure has aroused a lot of interest in Jamaica.

One can make a supposition and compare what happened in Trinidad to what would have happened here.

I am sure that if the UWI students here had as much as even booed the Canadian Governor General, Pharoah would have sent his soldiers in his chariots. In Trinidad the students opposed the Governor visit because of incidents in Canada and were allowed to do this without the wicked intervention of the police.

"ABENGITE"
Santa Cruz.

the true facts part 1 Origins HERBS

Ganja, or marihuana, or Hemp, to use only three of the hundreds of names by which it is known, is one of the earliest plants to be grown domestically for man's use. The ancient Chinese before 2700 B.C. used to grow the male plant for making rope, while the female (pistillate) plant was grown to produce a medicine which was prescribed for "female weakness, gout, the rheumatism, malaria, beri-beri, constipation and absent-mindedness." This female plant was apparently used by some as an intoxicant and at one period was called "the liberator of sin," largely because of the stern moral code of the times which frowned on earthly pleasures. Afterwards it also became known in China as "The Delight Giver."

From China the plant spread to India (hence Indian Hemp). Here again the male (staminate) plant was grown for making fibres and the female (pistillate) plant for its medicinal and intoxicating effect. This is because it is only the female plant whose resin is sufficiently potent to cause intoxication. It is in India that the word "Ganja" originated and referred to specially cultivated and harvested female plants used for smoking and making beverages and sweet meats. It was also called "The Heavenly Guide," "Poor Man's Heaven" and "Soothe of Grief."

In 1894 in India there was published a report of the Indian Hemp Drug Commission in seven volumes comprising over 3,000 pages. Though few persons know of the existence of this work, it is regarded by those who do as the classic work on the subject and was the result of two years of meticulous examination and enquiry. The Commission came up with three important findings:

1. There was no evidence of any weight that mental and moral injuries arise from the use of Ganja.
2. There was no evidence of any connection between the moderate use of Ganja and disease.
3. Moderate use of Ganja produces the same effects as moderate doses of whiskey and no more leads to

excess than moderate use of alcohol.

The colonial governors of India at the time ended their 1894 report by saying "it is neither practicable nor desirable to depart from the traditional policy of tolerating the moderate use of ganja ... even for non-medical purposes whilst taking every possible measures to prevent abuse." The commission's recommendation to tax ganja (being much cheaper than whiskey) was also abandoned as impracticable and licenses were introduced to try to control the cultivation of the plant.

**"Before you have
a government,
you must have
the people.
Without the people,
there can be no
government.
The Government
must be therefore
an expression of the
will of the people"**

GARVEY

It is of interest to note that the Hindus in India, rather like the Rastafarians in Jamaica, regard the Ganja plant as holy. Students of the scriptures are given ganja before they sit to study so that they may centre their thoughts on the eternal.

GANJA MOVES WEST

From India, Ganja spread to the west. It was estimated in 1951 that about two hundred million persons throughout the world used Ganja and it is acknowledged that the figure today is considerably higher, perhaps in excess of four hundred million (400,000,000) persons.

In the U.S.A. Ganja became a major crop in several states. Its fibres were used for rope and the resin from the female plant was produced by many large drug com-

panies and available on prescription

During the time of "Prohibition" in the 1920s when it was illegal to drink any form of alcohol, many persons began to discover Ganja. Among other things they discovered that Ganja was non-addictive and mildly stimulating without many of the harmful side effects of alcohol. Moreover it was cheaper and easier to produce than rum or whiskey.

GANJA STUDIES

In 1933 alcohol was again legalized and four years later, after a persistent campaign by the Federal Narcotics Bureau, itself established in 1930, the Marijuana Tax Act was passed without opposition. The Act made it an offence to be in possession of the minutest quantity of Ganja and the penalty was a possible fine of 2,000 dollars or five years imprisonment or both.

Not everyone was convinced by the campaign of the Federal Narcotics Bureau of the evils of Ganja, however. The mayor of New York, Fiorella La Guardia, in 1938 established a committee of 28 scientists and doctors from the world famous New York Academy of Medicine to study the effects of the so-called drug. The committee, after years of exhaustive study and research published its report 1944 against determined efforts to suppress it.

The effect of the report was to absolve Ganja completely as a dangerous drug. Among its findings were that:-

1. Smoking Ganja does not lead to mental or physical deterioration.
2. Ganja does not lead to addiction and its withdrawal does not cause the horrible reactions of Opium etc.
3. Ganja is not a direct cause or factor in sexual or criminal misconduct nor in juvenile delinquency.
4. The reports concerning the evil effects of Ganja were completely unfounded.

The report was attacked by the American Medical Association, the Federal Narcotics Bureau and the Press. Since then the report has been shelved and ignored by the U.S. government and other western governments. Many other doctors and drug experts have written to the same effect and have also been ignored. Among them Dr. Alfred Lindesmith, one of America's foremost experts on the sociology of illegal drugs, states that ganja is less dangerous and less harmful than alcohol and is far less likely to instigate crimes of violence than alcohol. He regards the bad reputation of Ganja as reflecting an upper class prejudice against an indulgence of the lower class and points out that the persons who denounced Ganja came from a class that did not use ganja but preferred gin, rum and whiskey.

Recent Commissions by the United Nations and in England also concluded that Ganja is a relatively harmless intoxicant and does not merit the severe and savage punishments which are inflicted on its users in Western countries. So far, however, there is no sign that any of the governments concerned has any intention of giving effect to these findings even by reducing the severity of the punishments.

**Next Week:
in Jamaica**

**WE MUST STAMP OUT
VOILENCE**



Plot to Deceive Black People Exposed: Ja. Lend What it Borrows

Every time the sufferers ask for more bread, more jobs, more control of the country's resources, the government trots out the familiar answer. We cannot afford it. To them our resources are not enough to keep every man, woman and child free from hunger and indignity.

As if to make this certain they do their best to ensure the continuous outward stream of resources in the form of profits, dividends and foreign securities. As a consequence they have to borrow. To run the society on the basis of an open invitation to all capitalists. Over the years they have become so convinced of these policies that borrowing has become an end in itself.

Evidence of this is seen in the widely publicised recent Bank of Jamaica report that the country had a surplus on the balance of payments of £16.5 million last year. The stark truth of this surplus is that the Jamaican society has lent to foreigners this vast sum of money through purchasing their securities.

Most of this lending takes place either through our foreign-dominated banking system seeking profit by lending Jamaican resources to Britain and North America, or the Colonial Central Bank which cannot do better. The absurdity of an exploited

country lending £16.5 million to its exploiters is of natural occurrence in a capitalist society. But this absurdity is also criminal when it is recognized that the surplus indicates that Jamaica was lending back what in the first place it borrowed.

Total borrowing in 1968 was £68 million. Of this we transferred £51.5 million in real resources (what is called the size of the current account deficit). The balance went to foreigners through purchasing their securities. This insane ineptitude is made almost unbelievable by the fact that much of the money borrowed was at rates of interest of 8 - 9%. On what was re-lent it would be fortunate if 4% was earned. That is if no devaluation occurs!!

The only way the Government can publish something like that in the face of so much suffering is because they feel the sufferers will not understand. But the sufferers do - and when they use fancy language to hide it ABENG will blow, and tell them the truth as it is. The sufferers cannot tolerate the Government holding foreign assets to the value of £70 million - an increase of £40 million over the past 7 years. The resources must be used to find jobs and to end foreign exploitation.

**ABENG ASSEMBLIES
OF
THE PEOPLE**

"Canada-Jamaican Relations in the light of Racism", Wed. March 19th, Extra-Mural Centre, 8 p.m.

**NEW WORLD GROUP
&
THE CARIBBEAN ARTISTS MOVEMENT
present
THEMES AND VALUES IN CARIBBEAN ART
with Marina Maxwell
Sunday, March 16th at 10:00 a.m.
Old Arts Lecture Room 3, U.W.I.**

SUFFERER'S DIARY

On Wed. Night March 5th

there was held by the JLP a Political meeting in Falmouth which is supposed to have been on behalf of a JLP candidate who is canvassing for votes in Trelawny Parish Council election. This meeting turned out to be one of masquerade performances by members of the JLP platform; the most abusive remarks were being stated by the comedians. Eventually to make the scene more disrupting one member in the Senate was giving the most nonsensical speeches until he asked the mass of the people in the audience, "Do you want for me to sing you a Chinese song?" It was absurd! This, what I am about to say on behalf of that song which the Senator had sung is a comment of justice, truth which is to be administered

Also on that night of the 5th March the Prime Minister attended this Political rignarole of scandals. He was supported by his bodyguards

At his arrival, he was welcomed by boos from children and youths, students of Falmouth, there was a scowl on his face, immediately some badmen rushed into the gathering armed with clubs of iron pipes, knives maybe guns on their person. They started to exchange blows and making abusive remarks which goes on to say: anyone who says anything in particular will lose their life. I was standing amongst a gathering of listeners of mixed nationals and one of these hooligans throw blows at a boy also used indecent expressions before the Police which is Law, and not even the slightest notice was paid to this.

What do you think about this? Is not this a subversive element? I am not a politician mark you, but I am only defending my rights and of others.

by Omo Ogun

ZIMBABWE: Guerrilla Struggle



Last week we looked at some of the conditions in Rhodesia (the future Zimbabwe) which are causing the black people there to rise up against their white masters. Made desperate by their exploitation, black people began, in the late 1950's to try to organise on a larger scale than ever before, under the leadership of men like Joshua Nkomo and Ndabaningi Sithole. They tried every legal means - strikes, demonstrations, newspapers, public meetings - but everytime they were brutalised by the police or arrested. Newspapers were banned and political parties made illegal. After five or six years of this treatment, which began long before Ian Smith came to power, the black nationalists realised that there was only one answer left to them: they had to fight for their freedom with guns, not words. As one nationalist said: "The most law-abiding Africans of Central Africa have now despaired of using methods that produce no results. They have decided to die in order to create a better world for themselves and their children."

If we are to be realistic, we must understand that the struggle for freedom in Zimbabwe is only just beginning. There are several very big problems which are preventing the freedom fighters from seriously hurting the Smith regime. First, there is no doubt that Smith's police and army are efficient, and

they have all the guns and planes and helicopters they need. The freedom fighters are having to learn the lessons of guerrilla war the hard way - by dying and by being captured. (If they are captured they are likely to be hanged by Smith) But lessons are being learned by those who survive. Gradually the freedom fighters are becoming more experienced, and will be able to hit back harder.

The second problem is that Smith is being helped by the government of South Africa. Next week we will look more closely at the policies of that government. What we must note is that South Africa is giving great economic help to Smith, and also military help as well. South African troops and police are fighting with Smith's forces against the freedom fighters.

The third and biggest problem is that black people of Zimbabwe are not united. Some of them, particularly the chiefs and wealthier men, are actually helping Smith. Even the freedom fighters are not united. They are divided between ZAPU, led by Nkomo, and ZANU led by Sithole, who split away from Nkomo in 1963 because he said Nkomo was not serious about the struggle. Both Nkomo and Sithole are in prison in Zimbabwe, but their lieutenants in exile keep up the quarrel. This quarrel must be ended. Black people everywhere must learn that if they fight one another they are playing the white man's game.

AFRICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF THE WEST INDIES

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Black Students Acted in Defence of Rights and Property

A group of black West Indians had charged that a professor was discriminating against them. The Sir George Williams University authorities ignored the students efforts for a fair investigation. So the students decided to occupy the computer centre.

The computing centre was occupied for twelve days by some 300 students in a space designed to hold 75. During those twelve days the students established such a system of government in the computing centre that even the acting principal (the principal had resigned over the issue) had, to make a statement saying that never before had such care been taken of the computers.

There were committees organised for food, security, sanitation, publicity etc. One important aspect of the occupation was that the Black students obtained the sympathy of thousands of white students who joined the occupation movement and themselves occupied other parts of the university. Also, for the first time, the Black community in Montreal was united in a manner and with a militancy never seen or experienced before. Then came the well publicized event - the two million dollar damage.

How and why did this damage take place?

On Feb. 11 the students were all getting ready to vacate the computing centre. Over 200 students had already left. The others were clearing up the rooms. The administration had finally (or so the students thought) agreed to the students' demands for setting-up an investigation committee agreeable to all parties in the dispute. The Black students had signed the agreement. They were only waiting on

Rasta Fisherman Speaks

"Man raise few birds, little food and police destroy every God-thing. You should see this place before this. Is I and I bring the land up to what it is. We have five bearing pepper trees, bananas, coconuts, potato and cane. Man all have bird and a box full of eggs and them shatter them just because I and I declare of a living God. We put value on the land. Yes man. It would be valueless without us. See it. This is all we expect from politicians, destruction!"



Picture shows the nature of the "good relations," we are told Michener's visit was in aid of. Demonstrators at Sir George, Montreal.

the administration to sign. To their amazement, instead of signing the agreement the administration called in the riot squad to evict the students. It was then and only then that damage was done to the computers.

WHO DID THE DAMAGE?

The riot squad forced its way through the door to the computing room and the battle began. Who, did the damage? We here in Trinidad cannot say. But we can, at least, discuss the possibilities.

The first possibility is that the police in their frenzied baton-swinging (a phenomenon well known to anyone who saw and experienced the St. Jean Baptiste day events in Montreal last year or who has lived in North America for some time) smashed anything and everything in sight as they always do.

The second possibility is that saboteurs among the occupying students (it has been proven that there were administration spies among them) did the damage.

The third possibility is that students and police in the fighting that ensued smashed equipment in order to save themselves.

And finally, it is possible that the occupying students deliberately smashed the equipment.

We would be prepared to believe

in the absence of accurate facts, any of these four possibilities.

MENTAL AGONY

Yet, strange as it may seem the fourth possibility is the least likely. The students had occupied the computing centre for twelve days. If they wanted to smash the equipment to fine particles they could have easily done so on the very first day. But instead they had organised a security system to guard the equipment, and they saw to it that no-one handled the computer. They cleared the computing rooms and were about to vacate those rooms on Feb. 11.

Even the administration had to concede that the students were taking better care of the equipment than it had ever done. On this basis, it is highly unlikely that such students would deliberately decide on the twelfth day of the occupation to smash the computers.

It is quite conceivable that as a result of the mental agony and violence to which they were subjected for ten months and the pent-up inner frustration of dealing with a dilly-dallying, shilly-shallying racist administration, they were finally driven to disregard pieces of steel and aluminium in attempting to save their skins from the brutality of the riot squad. And if they did who are we to condemn them?

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